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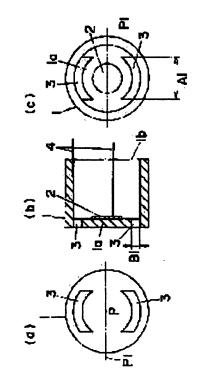
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(54) ULTRASONICVIBRATOR

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain an ultrasonic vibrator that allows the thickness of beams in each direction to differ without using any horns.

SOLUTION: In a cylindrical case 1 in nearly a cylindrical shape, its one end face 1b is open, a piezoelectric element 2 is applied to nearly the central part inside the cylindrical case 1 on the other end face for arrangement as a vibration surface 1a, and ultrasonic waves are transmitted and received from the vibration surface 1a. On the vibration surface 1a, circular arc-shaped openings 3 and 3 with a length A1 in parallel with each one center line P1 and with a length B1 in a direction that orthogonally crosses the direction of the length A1 are provided at a position that is located outside the



position where the piezoelectric element 2 is provided and is symmetrical with the center line P1 passing through a center P of the vibration surface 1a as a center.

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the cylindrical case 1 on the other end face for arrangement as a vibration surface 1a, and ultrasonic waves are transmitted and received from the vibration surface 1a. On the vibration surface 1a, circular arc-shaped openings 3 and 3 with a length A1 in parallel with each one center line P1 and with a length B1 in a direction that orthogonally crosses the direction of the length A1 are provided at a position that is located outside the position where the piezoelectric element 2 is provided and is symmetrical with the center line P1 passing through a center P of the vibration surface 1a as a center.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is the ultrasonic vibrator characterized by to have opening in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about the center line passing through each core of a field that the shaft and said tubed case cross at right angles in the ultrasonic vibrator which an end side carries out opening, and prepares a piezoelectric device in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, makes the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded a plane of vibration, and performs wave transmission and wave-receiving of a supersonic wave.

[Claim 2] Said opening is an ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 1 characterized by being formed in said plane of vibration.

[Claim 3] Said opening is an ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 1 characterized by being formed in the side face of said tubed case.

[Claim 4] Said opening is an ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 1 characterized by being applied and formed in the side face of said tubed case from said plane of vibration.

[Claim 5] An ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 1 to claims 4 characterized by changing said center line and parallel lay length of said opening, and adjusting the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave.

[Claim 6] An ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 1 to claims 4 characterized by changing the lay length which intersects perpendicularly with

said center line of said opening, and adjusting the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave.

[Claim 7] It is the ultrasonic vibrator which an end side carries out opening, and prepares a piezoelectric device in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, makes the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded a plane of vibration, and is characterized by said plane of vibration having a thin-walled part with thin thickness in the location which becomes symmetrical centering on the center line passing through the core in the ultrasonic vibrator which performs wave transmission and wave-receiving of a supersonic wave.

[Claim 8] the configuration inside [said / tubed case] said plane of vibration is prolonged in the formation direction in which said thin-walled part is formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation -- the ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 7 characterized by being the configuration which has two parallel straight lines.

[Claim 9] The ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 8 characterized by being said more than parallel lay length of said plane of vibration which has said center line and parallel lay length of said thin-walled part between each thin-walled part prepared in said location which becomes symmetrical.

[Claim 10] Said thin-walled part is an ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 7 characterized by being the configuration to which width of face becomes narrow toward the depth direction.

[Claim 11] Said thin-walled part is an ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 7 to claims 10 characterized by being prepared inside said tubed case of said plane of vibration.

[Claim 12] Said thin-walled part is an ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 7 to claims 10 characterized by being prepared in the outside of said tubed case of said plane of vibration.

[Claim 13] Said thin-walled part is an ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 7 to claims 10 characterized by being prepared in both the inside of said tubed

case of said plane of vibration, and the inside.

[Claim 14] the configuration of said tubed case outside of said plane of vibration is prolonged in the formation direction in which said thin-walled part is formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation -- the ultrasonic vibrator according to claim 7 characterized by being the configuration which has two parallel straight lines.

[Claim 15] An ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 1 to claims 14 characterized by manufacturing said tubed case by the forging process.

[Claim 16] An ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 1 to claims 15 characterized by preparing the level difference section in the side face of said tubed case so that the direction of said end side side which carried out opening may become [the thickness of the outer wall of said tubed case side face] thicker than said plane-of-vibration side.

[Claim 17] Said level difference section is an ultrasonic vibrator given in either of claim 1 to claims 16 characterized by being a taper configuration.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the ultrasonic vibrator of the ultrasonic sensor which receives the reflected wave from an obstruction and detects existence of an obstruction while transmitting an ultrasonic signal. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] As an ultrasonic sensor which performs the conventional obstruction detection, from an ultrasonic sensor, an ultrasonic pulse is sent into air, is reflected in obstructions, such as a detection object object, an ultrasonic sensor receives the reflected wave, the input signal is processed, and it has composition which emits an alarm etc. The ultrasonic vibrator which has sent and received the supersonic wave of the above-mentioned ultrasonic sensor is a configuration as shown in the front view of drawing 14 (a), and the side-face sectional view of drawing 14 (b). The piezoelectric device 52 stuck on the tubed case 51 inside with adhesives is formed, and the field by the side of the tubed case 51 other end of the hollow in which the end side carried out opening has become plane-of-vibration 51a, and transmits and receives an ultrasonic signal. Acoustic material 53 is arranged at the side stuck on the above-mentioned planeof-vibration 51a of a piezoelectric device 52. The lead wire 54 connected to the piezoelectric device 52 and the tubed case 51 and the shielding wire 56 which transmits the signal outputted and inputted from the control circuit side which is not illustrated are connected with the terminal substrate 55. Moreover, the interior of this tubed case 51 is filled up with the filler 57.

[0003] however -- this ultrasonic vibrator -- plane-of-vibration 51a -- circular -- since thickness is fixed -- the ultrasonic vibrator itself -- in view of an ultrasonic vibrator -- all the directions -- abbreviation -- it becomes uniform directivity.

Although the ultrasonic vibrator of the obstruction detection for cars is attached in the bumper of a car etc., detection area of the longitudinal direction of the ultrasonic vibrator when attaching in a car is made large in order to detect existence of an obstruction, and it is necessary to narrow detection area of a

lengthwise direction in order to prevent detection of the unnecessary body on a road surface. Therefore, it is as perpendicular as a horizontal direction and the directivity from which the size of the beam of the supersonic wave of an ultrasonic vibrator differs is needed. Therefore, in the conventional ultrasonic vibrator, the horn 58 needed to be formed through maintenance rubber 59, and beam control of a supersonic wave needed to be performed. The horn 58 is performing beam control from the opening 60 which has diameter-medianus 58a, transverse-diameter 58b, and depth 58c, as shown in drawing 15 (a) and (b). [0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] In the ultrasonic vibrator which has such a horn 58, during car transit etc., storm sewage may enter, or the interior of a horn 58 may tend to be covered with snow, dust, etc., the beam of a supersonic wave may change by that cause, and the detection area of the object of an obstruction etc. may change. Moreover, although the thing included in the horn 58 interior was detected and there was no detection object object in detection area, there was a problem which incorrect-detects it. And since the hole of a projection and horn 58 the very thing existed [a horn 58] from a bumper side again in order to attach an ultrasonic vibrator in a bumper etc., there was a problem that an exterior was not good, either. Thus, in order to make the size of the beam of an ultrasonic vibrator differ, the problem described above when the horn was used occurred.

[0005] In view of the above-mentioned reason, it succeeds in this invention, and is in the purpose offering the ultrasonic vibrator which can differ the directional characteristics of the beam of a supersonic wave, without using a horn.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, invention of claim 1 In the ultrasonic vibrator which an end side carries out opening, and prepares a piezoelectric device in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, makes the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded a plane of vibration, and performs wave

transmission and wave-receiving of a supersonic wave Said tubed case is characterized by having opening in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about the center line passing through each core of the field which intersects perpendicularly with the shaft. Therefore, since vibration of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the center line of a plane of vibration has opening in the both ends, it vibrates so that the part which carries out flat-surface vibration may become large in the direction which rigidity becomes weak, becomes easy to vibrate and intersects perpendicularly with a plane of vibration compared with a center line and a parallel vibration. Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0007] Moreover, invention of claim 2 is characterized by forming said opening in said plane of vibration in invention according to claim 1. Therefore, the same effectiveness as claim 1 is acquired.

[0008] Moreover, it is characterized by for invention according to claim 1 setting invention of claim 3, and forming said opening in the side face of said tubed case. Therefore, while the same effectiveness as claim 1 is acquired, in order not to prepare opening in a plane of vibration, it can arrange, without restricting the magnitude and the location of a piezoelectric device, and an appearance also becomes good.

[0009] Moreover, invention of claim 4 is characterized by being formed in the side face of said tubed case from said plane of vibration, applying said opening in invention according to claim 1. Therefore, large opening can be taken, and in performing wave transmission of a supersonic wave, and wave-receiving, since the rigidity of the formation direction which formed opening to the center line of a plane of vibration can be weakened, the different directivity of the directional characteristics of a beam can be improved.

[0010] Moreover, invention of claim 5 is characterized by changing said center line and parallel lay length of said opening, and adjusting the directional

characteristics of a supersonic wave in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 4. Therefore, the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave can be changed.

[0011] Moreover, invention of claim 6 is characterized by changing the lay length which intersects perpendicularly with said center line of said opening, and adjusting the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 4. Therefore, the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave can be changed.

[0012] Moreover, an end side carries out opening of the invention of claim 7, a piezoelectric device is prepared in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded is made into a plane of vibration, and said plane of vibration is characterized by having a thin-walled part with thin thickness in the location which becomes symmetrical centering on the center line passing through the core in the ultrasonic vibrator which performs wave transmission and wavereceiving of a supersonic wave. Therefore, since vibration of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the center line of a plane of vibration has a thinwalled part in the both ends, it vibrates so that the part which carries out flatsurface vibration may become large in the direction which rigidity becomes weak, becomes easy to vibrate and intersects perpendicularly with a plane of vibration compared with a center line and a parallel vibration. Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0013] in invention according to claim 7, as for invention of claim 8, the configuration inside [said / tubed case] said plane of vibration is prolonged by said thin-walled part in the formation direction currently formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation -- it is characterized by being the configuration which has two parallel straight lines. Therefore, a center line and the beam of a horizontal supersonic wave can be made thick, and the

different directivity of the directional characteristics of the beam of a supersonic wave can be improved.

[0014] Moreover, invention of claim 9 is characterized by being said more than parallel lay length of said plane of vibration which has said center line and parallel lay length of said thin-walled part between each thin-walled part prepared in said location which becomes symmetrical in invention according to claim 8. Therefore, a center line and the beam of a vertical supersonic wave can be made thick, and the different directivity of the directional characteristics of the beam of a supersonic wave can be improved.

[0015] Moreover, invention of claim 10 is characterized by said thin-walled part being a configuration to which width of face becomes narrow toward the depth direction in invention according to claim 7. Therefore, in manufacture of a tubed case, a thin-walled part can be easily formed with a sufficient precision in plastic working.

[0016] Moreover, invention of claim 11 is characterized by preparing said thinwalled part inside said tubed case of said plane of vibration in invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10. Therefore, the appearance of a tubed case becomes good.

[0017] Moreover, invention of claim 12 is characterized by preparing said thin-walled part in the outside of said tubed case of said plane of vibration in invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10. Therefore, after filling up the interior of a tubed case with a filler, the die length of a thin-walled part, the depth, and a number can adjust the vibrational state of a plane of vibration to arbitration. [0018] Moreover, invention of claim 13 is characterized by preparing said thin-walled part in both the inside of said tubed case of said plane of vibration, and the inside in invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10. Therefore, the vibrational state which serves as a target of a plane of vibration by the thin-walled part prepared inside can be formed, the vibrational state after manufacture of an ultrasonic vibrator can be finely tuned by the outside thin-walled part, since an outside thin-walled part is formed for fine tuning, the magnitude can be made

small and an appearance becomes good.

[0019] moreover, in invention according to claim 7, as for invention of claim 14, the configuration of said tubed case outside of said plane of vibration is prolonged by said thin-walled part in the formation direction currently formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation -- it is characterized by being the configuration which has two parallel straight lines. Therefore, since thickness of the maintenance rubber holding a tubed case can be enlarged in case the center line of said tubed case and parallel width of face become narrow and an ultrasonic vibrator is attached in the bumper of a car, the effect on [from the bumper installation section] a plane of vibration is mitigable. Moreover, the formation direction of a thin-walled part can be known from the appearance of a tubed case.

[0020] Moreover, invention of claim 15 is characterized by manufacturing said tubed case by the forging process in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 14. Therefore, the manufacturing cost of a tubed case is reducible.

[0021] Moreover, in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 15, invention of claim 16 is characterized by preparing the level difference section in the side face of said tubed case so that the direction of said end side side which carried out opening may become [the thickness of the outer wall of said tubed case side face] thicker than said plane-of-vibration side. Therefore, while being able to make small the appearance when attaching an ultrasonic vibrator in the bumper of a car, the rigidity of a tubed case can vibrate strength and a plane of vibration more greatly with the outer wall with which the thickness by the side of the end side which carried out opening became thick.

[0022] Moreover, invention of claim 17 is characterized by said level difference section being a taper configuration in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 16. Therefore, manufacture by forging of a tubed case is attained and a manufacturing cost can be reduced.

[0023]

[Embodiment of the Invention] (Operation gestalt 1) Drawing 1 is drawing

showing the operation gestalt 1 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. The end side 1c is carrying out opening of the approximately cylindrical tubed case 1, it is blockaded, an other end side sticks and arranges a piezoelectric device 2 in the abbreviation center section of the tubed case 1 inside, and it is setting it to plane-of-vibration 1a. While the lead wire 4 with which a signal is outputted and inputted from an external circuit is connected with the tubed case 1 at each of a piezoelectric device 2, vibrating a piezoelectric device 2 based on the inputted signal and transmitting a supersonic wave to top [a / plane-of-vibration 1] Norikazu end-face 1b and the opposite side The supersonic wave which transmitted waves receives the reflected wave reflected in the body from plane-of-vibration 1a, and outputs an electrical signal to the above-mentioned external circuit from lead wire 4 through a piezoelectric device 2. That is, an ultrasonic vibrator is constituted by the tubed case 1, a piezoelectric device 2, and lead wire 4.

[0024] It is the outside of the location in which the piezoelectric device 2 was formed, and it has every one die length A1 in parallel with a center line P1, respectively in the location which becomes symmetrical centering on the center line P1 passing through the core P of plane-of-vibration 1a, and openings 3 and 3 of the shape of radii which has die length B1 are formed in die-length A1 direction and the direction which intersects perpendicularly on the field of plane-of-vibration 1a which is one of the fields which intersect perpendicularly with the shaft of the tubed case 1. The closure of these openings 3 and 3 is carried out with rubber.

[0025] since vibration of the direction (it calls perpendicularly henceforth) which intersects perpendicularly with the center line P1 of this ultrasonic vibrator has openings 3 and 3 in those both ends -- rigidity -- weak -- becoming -- vibrating -- being easy -- it vibrates so that the part which carries out flat-surface vibration may become large in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with plane-of-vibration 1a compared with vibration of a center line P1 and a parallel direction (it

calls horizontally henceforth). Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0026] Moreover, since the rigidity of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a changes by changing the center line P1 of opening 3, the parallel lay length A1, or the lay length B1 that intersects perpendicularly with a center line P1, the vibrational state of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a changes. Therefore, by changing the above-mentioned die length A1 or die length B1, a setup becomes possible freely about the sharpness of the beam of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a, and the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave can be adjusted.

(Operation gestalt 2) Drawing 2 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 2 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. As opposed to openings 3 and 3 having been formed in the location where a different point from drawing 1 in drawing 2 becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 in drawing 1 at a plane-of-vibration 1a top, respectively In drawing 2, it is the point that the openings 3a and 3a of the shape of an abbreviation rectangle which has every one die length A2 in parallel with a center line P1, respectively, and has die-length B-2 in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with die length A2 are formed in the location which touches plane-of-vibration 1a of side-face 1c of the tubed case 1. Here, a center line P1 is a center line passing through the field which has the openings 3a and 3a of the side face of the tubed case 1, i.e., the field which intersects perpendicularly with the shaft of the tubed case 1.

[0027] Since opening 3a is prepared, vibration of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a vibrates so that the part which carries out flat-surface vibration may become large in the direction which rigidity becomes weak, becomes easy to vibrate and intersects perpendicularly with plane-of-vibration 1a compared with a horizontal vibration. Consequently, it becomes possible to

compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0028] Moreover, by changing lay length B-2 which intersects perpendicularly with the center line P1 of opening 3a, the parallel lay length A2, or a center line P1 like drawing 1, a setup becomes possible freely about the sharpness of the beam of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a, and the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave can be adjusted.

[0029] And since there is no opening in plane-of-vibration 1a, it can arrange, without restricting the magnitude and the attachment location of a piezoelectric device 2, and an appearance also becomes good again.

(Operation gestalt 3) Drawing 3 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 3 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. It is the point prepared one [at a time] in the location where opening which carried out opening, having applied to side-face connected [it] from edge of plane-of-vibration 1a by drawing 3 to openings 3 and 3 having been formed in location where different point from drawing 1 in drawing 3 becomes symmetrical as core about center line P1 on plane-of-vibration 1a in drawing 1, respectively 1b 3b becomes symmetrical centering on a center line P1, respectively. And the whole ultrasonic vibrator was covered with amaintenance rubber 9, and it has fitted into the bumper of a car. Opening 3b is also closed by this maintenance rubber 9, and it becomes reduction of components mark.

[0030] Thus, since it applied to side-face 1b from plane-of-vibration 1a and opening 3b was prepared, larger opening can be taken, the rigidity of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a can be weakened, it compares horizontally and vibration to which the part which carries out flat-surface vibration becomes large is perpendicularly carried out in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with plane-of-vibration 1a. Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective

detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0031] Moreover, since the rigidity of the perpendicular direction of plane-ofvibration 1a changes by changing the lay length B3 which intersects perpendicularly with the center line P1 direction of opening 3b, parallel lay length A3, or a center line P1, the vibrational state of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a changes. Therefore, a setup becomes possible freely about the sharpness of the beam of the perpendicular direction of plane-of-vibration 1a, and the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave can be adjusted. (Operation gestalt 4) Drawing 4 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 4 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b)) I rear view. It is the point that the thin-walled parts 5 and 5 thinner thickly [of plane-of-vibration 1a] one [at a time] are formed in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 inside the tubed case 1 of plane-of-vibration 1a by drawing 4 to every one openings 3 and 3 having been formed in the location where a different point from drawing 1 in drawing 4 becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 on plane-ofvibration 1a in drawing 1, respectively, respectively. This thin-walled part 5 is formed in the outside of the location where the piezoelectric device 2 is arranged, and is a radii configuration which has a center line P1, width of face fixed in parallel, and the depth.

[0032] Therefore, although vibration of plane-of-vibration 1a is a horizontally simple flexural oscillation, flexural oscillation arises perpendicularly in the part which is sticking the piezoelectric device 2, and the part which carries out flat-surface vibration becomes large in the direction which becomes easy to vibrate for the thin-walled part 5 prepared in the outside, compares horizontally, and intersects perpendicularly with plane-of-vibration 1a. Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

(Operation gestalt 5) Drawing 5 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 5 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. In drawing 4, the configuration inside [tubed case 1 I plane-of-vibration 1a of a different point from drawing 4 in drawing 5 is an approximate circle configuration. As opposed to the thin-walled part 5 being arranged a little from the periphery of the circle configuration at Core P side In drawing 5, the configuration inside [tubed case 1] plane-of-vibration 1a is horizontally established for the radii-like curves 7a and 7b on both sides of a center line P1, respectively. It is a point used as the configuration which each edge of the curves 7a and 7b is connected, carries out an abbreviation rectangular cross with a center line P1, and serves as the straight lines 6a and 6b of abbreviation parallel mutually. And it is the location which becomes symmetrical centering on a center line P1, and it has fixed width of face in the location which touches the curves 7a and 7b of the shape of radii of each above, and the circular thin-walled parts 5a and 5a are formed in it in the center line P1 direction.

[0033] For this reason, compared with the case where the configuration inside [tubed case 1] plane-of-vibration 1a is an approximate circle configuration, the width of face of center line P1 direction becomes narrow. Therefore, the horizontal direction of plane-of-vibration 1a vibrates in the narrow range compared with a perpendicular direction, can make a horizontal beam thicker, and becomes possible [making objective detection area small], and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity. [0034] At this time, as are shown in drawing 6 (a), and shown in thin-walled part 11of configuration whose core side it is not circular and is straight line parallel to center line P1 in which thin-walled part has fixed width of face a, and drawing 6 (b), outside [both] may be thin-walled part 11c of the configuration which is a straight line parallel to a center line P1 a thin-walled part 11b [of the configuration whose outside is a straight line parallel to a center line P1], and core side.

[0035] Moreover, if it forms so that the thin-walled parts [12a 12b, 12c, and 12d] horizontal die length S1 may become larger than the horizontal width of face S2 in the tubed case 1 inside of plane-of-vibration 1a as shown in drawing 7 (a), (b), (c), and (d) Thin-walled parts [12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d] rigidity can be weakened more, it can compare horizontally, and a vertical beam can be made sharper. (Operation gestalt 6) Drawing 8 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 6 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. As opposed to the thin-walled parts 5 and 5 which have width of face and the depth respectively fixed one [at a time] having been formed in the location where a different point from drawing 4 in drawing 8 becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 inside [tubed case 1] plane-of-vibration 1a in drawing 4 In drawing 8, it is the point that thin-walled part 5b with the circular configuration where the cross section where width of face becomes small at the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 inside the tubed case 1 of plane-of-vibration 1a as it becomes two at a time deep, respectively is the abbreviation configuration for V characters, and it saw from the tooth back is prepared. Moreover, the cross section where width of face becomes small may be an approximate circle arc configuration as thin-walled part 5b becomes deep.

[0036] Such a cross section can form easily the thin-walled part of the abbreviation configuration for V characters, and an approximate circle arc configuration with a sufficient precision by plastic working. Moreover, the vibrational state of plane-of-vibration 1a can be adjusted by changing the die length of this thin-walled part 5b, the depth, and a number.

(Operation gestalt 7) Drawing 9 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 7 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. As opposed to the thin-walled parts 5 and 5 which have width of face and the depth respectively fixed one [at a time] having been formed in the location where a different point from drawing 4 in drawing 9 becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 inside [tubed case 1]

plane-of-vibration 1a in drawing 4 In drawing 9, it is the point that thin-walled part 5c with the circular configuration where have every two fixed width of face and depth, respectively in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1, and it saw from the transverse plane is prepared in the outside of the tubed case 1 of plane-of-vibration 1a.

[0037] Thus, since thin-walled part 5c is prepared in the outside of the tubed case 1 of plane-of-vibration 1a, also after filling up the interior of the tubed case 1 with a filler, by changing the die length of thin-walled part 5c, the depth, and a number, the vibrational state of plane-of-vibration 1a can be adjusted, and fine tuning after manufacture of an ultrasonic vibrator is attained.

(Operation gestalt 8) Drawing 10 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 8 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. As opposed to the thin-walled parts 5 and 5 which have width of face and the depth respectively fixed one [at a time] having been formed in the location where a different point from drawing 4 in drawing 10 becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1 inside [tubed case 1] plane-of-vibration 1a in drawing 4 In drawing 10, it is the point that 5d of thin-walled parts with the circular configuration where have every one fixed width of face and fixed depth, respectively in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about a center line P1, and it saw from the transverse plane is further prepared also in the outside of the tubed case 1 of plane-of-vibration 1a. [0038] It is made to tune the oscillation mode after making the vibrational state made into the target of plane-of-vibration 1a and manufacturing an ultrasonic vibrator by formation of the thin-walled part 5 inside the tubed case 1 using 5d of thin-walled parts of the outside of the tubed case 1 here finely.

[0039] While fine tuning of the vibrational state after manufacture of an ultrasonic vibrator is attained by this, the thin-walled part prepared in the outside of the tubed case 1 can be made small, and an appearance becomes good.

[0040] (Operation gestalt 9) Drawing 11 is drawing showing the operation gestalt 9 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view

and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view. The outside configuration of the point that the radii-like curves 15a and 15b are perpendicularly formed on both sides of the center line P1, respectively of plane-of-vibration 1a of an ultrasonic vibrator which showed drawing 11 in drawing 5 is the same as that of drawing 5. Each edge of the curves 15a and 15b is connected, and the points used as the configuration which is prolonged in the direction which carried out the abbreviation rectangular cross with the center line P1, i.e., the direction in which thin-walled part 5a was formed to the center line P1, and in which the straight lines 14a and 14b of abbreviation parallel are formed mutually differ. That is, in the ultrasonic vibrator of drawing 11, width of face with the outside horizontal configuration is narrow compared with drawing 5. A perimeter is covered with maintenance rubber 9 and fitting of this ultrasonic vibrator is carried out to a bumper.

[0041] With the configuration of preparing the thin-walled part explained with each above-mentioned operation gestalt, as for side-face vibration of the tubed case 1, it becomes large horizontally. Then, as shown in drawing 11, it becomes possible to thicken horizontal thickness of maintenance rubber 9 by considering as the outside configuration to which horizontal width of face becomes narrow, and when an ultrasonic vibrator is held with maintenance rubber 9 and attached in a bumper, the effect on plane-of-vibration 1a can be mitigated. Moreover, the outside configuration of plane-of-vibration 1a is not an approximate circle form, and since it is the configuration of having two straight lines of the abbreviation parallel prolonged in the formation direction of thin-walled part 5a to a center line P1, an appearance comes to show the installation direction to a bumper etc. (Operation gestalt 10) Drawing 12 is the side-face sectional view showing the operation gestalt 10 of the ultrasonic vibrator of this invention. It differs in that the level difference section 17 is formed so that width of face may become [the outer wall 16 in the direction of the end side 1b side which carried out opening to the outer wall of side-face 1c of the tubed case 1 shown in drawing 5 by drawing 12] thick from the outer wall 19 in the direction of the plane-of-vibration 1a side. In

drawing 12, the ultrasonic vibrator constituted in this way was held with maintenance rubber 9, and it has attached in the bumper 10 so that the level difference section 17 may stop inside a bumper 10.

[0042] With the outer wall 16 constituted so that this width of face might become thick, the rigidity of the tubed case 1 can be strengthened and plane-of-vibration 1a can be vibrated more greatly. At this time, the appearance attached in the bumper 10 can be made small.

[0043] Drawing 13 shows the example which gave the taper 18 to the level difference section 17 shown in drawing 12. This becomes possible to manufacture the level difference section 17 in forging, and a manufacturing cost can be reduced. Also in what forms thin-walled part 5b in plastic working, and manufactures the tubed case 1 as drawing 8 showed, it manufactures in forging as well as processing of the level difference section 17, and a manufacturing cost can be reduced.

[0044]

[Effect of the Invention] In the ultrasonic vibrator which an end side carries out opening of the invention of claim 1, and prepares a piezoelectric device in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, makes the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded a plane of vibration, and performs wave transmission and wave-receiving of a supersonic wave as described above Since said tubed case has opening in the location which becomes symmetrical as a core about the center line passing through each core of the field which intersects perpendicularly with the shaft, vibration of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the center line of a plane of vibration Since opening is in the both ends, it vibrates so that the part which carries out flat-surface vibration may become large in the direction which rigidity becomes weak, becomes easy to vibrate and intersects perpendicularly with a plane of vibration compared with a center line and a parallel vibration.

Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic

vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0045] Moreover, in invention according to claim 1, since said opening is formed in said plane of vibration, as for invention of claim 2, the same effectiveness as claim 1 is acquired.

[0046] Moreover, it can arrange by invention according to claim 1 setting invention of claim 3, without restricting the magnitude and the location of a piezoelectric device, in order not to prepare opening in a plane of vibration, while the same effectiveness as claim 1 is acquired, since said opening is formed in the side face of said tubed case, and an appearance also becomes good.

[0047] Moreover, in performing wave transmission of a supersonic wave, and wave-receiving, since it is formed in the side face of said tubed case from said plane of vibration, applying said opening and the rigidity of the formation direction which could take large opening and formed opening to the center line of a plane of vibration can be weakened, invention of claim 4 can improve the different directivity of the directional characteristics of a beam in invention according to claim 1.

[0048] Moreover, since invention of claim 5 changes said center line and parallel lay length of said opening and adjusts the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 4, it can change the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave.

[0049] Moreover, since invention of claim 6 changes the lay length which intersects perpendicularly with said center line of said opening and adjusts the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 4, it can change the directional characteristics of a supersonic wave.

[0050] Moreover, an end side carries out opening of the invention of claim 7, and prepare a piezoelectric device in the tubed case inside abbreviation center section, make into a plane of vibration the other end side of the tubed case where the other end side was blockaded, and it sets to the ultrasonic vibrator which performs wave transmission and wave-receiving of a supersonic wave.

Since said plane of vibration has a thin-walled part with thin thickness centering on the center line passing through the core in the location which becomes symmetrical, vibration of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the center line of a plane of vibration Since a thin-walled part is in the both ends, it vibrates so that the part which carries out flat-surface vibration may become large in the direction which rigidity becomes weak, becomes easy to vibrate and intersects perpendicularly with a plane of vibration compared with a center line and a parallel vibration. Consequently, it becomes possible to compare horizontally, to make a vertical beam sharp and to make objective detection area small, and an ultrasonic vibrator can form directional characteristics with different directivity.

[0051] in invention according to claim 7, as for invention of claim 8, the configuration inside [said / tubed case] said plane of vibration is prolonged by said thin-walled part in the formation direction currently formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation -- since it is the configuration which has two parallel straight lines, a center line and the beam of a horizontal supersonic wave can be made thick, and the different directivity of the directional characteristics of the beam of a supersonic wave can be improved.

[0052] Moreover, in invention according to claim 8, since invention of claim 9 is said more than parallel lay length of said plane of vibration which has said center line and parallel lay length of said thin-walled part between each thin-walled part prepared in said location which becomes symmetrical, it can make thick a center line and the beam of a vertical supersonic wave, and can improve the different directivity of the directional characteristics of the beam of a supersonic wave.

[0053] Moreover, in invention according to claim 7, since said thin-walled part is a

configuration to which width of face becomes narrow toward the depth direction, invention of claim 10 can form a thin-walled part with a sufficient precision easily in plastic working in manufacture of a tubed case.

[0054] Moreover, in invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10, since said thin-walled part is prepared inside said tubed case of said plane of vibration, as

for invention of claim 11, the appearance of a tubed case becomes good.

[0055] Moreover, in invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10, since said thin-walled part is prepared in the outside of said tubed case of said plane of vibration, after filling up invention of claim 12 into the interior of a tubed case with a filler, it can adjust the vibrational state of a plane of vibration to arbitration with the die length of a thin-walled part, the depth, and a number.

[0056] Invention of claim 13 is set to invention given in either of claim 7 to claims 10. Moreover, said thin-walled part Since it is prepared in both the inside of said tubed case of said plane of vibration, and the inside, The vibrational state which serves as a target of a plane of vibration by the thin-walled part prepared inside can be formed, the vibrational state after manufacture of an ultrasonic vibrator can be finely tuned by the outside thin-walled part, since an outside thin-walled part is formed for fine tuning, the magnitude can be made small and an appearance becomes good.

[0057] Invention of claim 14 is set to invention according to claim 7. Moreover, the configuration of said tubed case outside of said plane of vibration it extends in the formation direction in which said thin-walled part is formed to the center line of said plane of vibration -- mutual -- abbreviation, since it is the configuration which has two parallel straight lines Since thickness of the maintenance rubber holding a tubed case can be enlarged in case the center line of said tubed case and parallel width of face become narrow and an ultrasonic vibrator is attached in the bumper of a car, the effect on [from the bumper installation section] a plane of vibration is mitigable. Moreover, the formation direction of a thin-walled part can be known from the appearance of a tubed case.

[0058] Moreover, in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 14, since invention of claim 15 manufactures said tubed case by the forging process, it can reduce the manufacturing cost of a tubed case.

[0059] Moreover, invention of claim 16 is set to invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 15. Since the level difference section is prepared in the side face of said tubed case so that the direction of said end side side which carried out

opening may become [the thickness of the outer wall of said tubed case side face] thicker than said plane-of-vibration side, While being able to make small the appearance when attaching an ultrasonic vibrator in the bumper of a car, the rigidity of a tubed case can vibrate strength and a plane of vibration more greatly with the outer wall with which the thickness by the side of the end side which carried out opening became thick.

[0060] Moreover, in invention given in either of claim 1 to claims 16, since said level difference section is a taper configuration, manufacture of invention of claim 17 by forging of a tubed case is attained, and it can reduce a manufacturing cost.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 1 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 2 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 3 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 4 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 5 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing showing other structures of an ultrasonic vibrator same as the above, and each of (a), (b), and (c) is rear view.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the structure of further others of an ultrasonic vibrator same as the above, and each of (a), (b), (c), and (d) is rear view.

[Drawing 8] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 6 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 9] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 7 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 10] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 8 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 11] It is drawing showing the structure of the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 9 of this invention, and (a) is [a side-face sectional view and (c of a front view and (b))] rear view.

[Drawing 12] It is the side-face sectional view showing the condition of having attached the ultrasonic vibrator corresponding to the operation gestalt 10 of this invention in the bumper of a car.

[Drawing 13] It is the side-face sectional view showing other structures of an ultrasonic vibrator same as the above.

[Drawing 14] It is drawing showing the structure of the conventional ultrasonic vibrator, and (a) is a front view and (b) is a side-face sectional view.

[Drawing 15] It is drawing showing the condition of having attached the horn in the conventional ultrasonic vibrator, and (a) is a front view and (b) is a side-face sectional view.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Tubed Case
- 1a Plane of vibration
- 1b End side
- 2 Piezoelectric Device
- 3 Opening
- 4 Lead Wire
- P1 Center line
- P Core

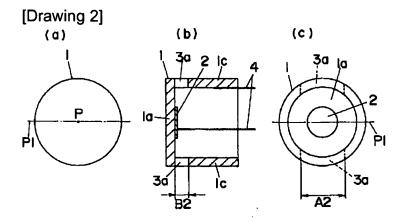
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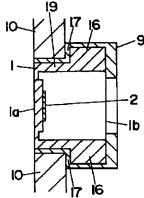
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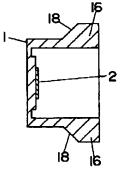
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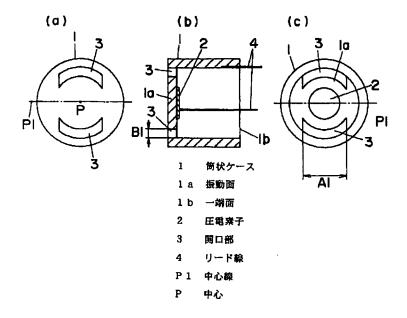


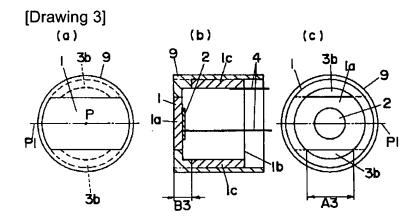


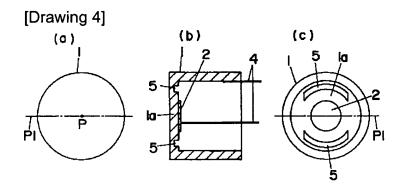
[Drawing 13]



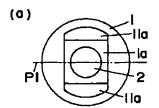
[Drawing 1]

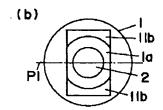


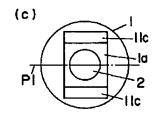


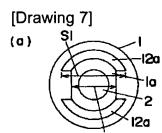


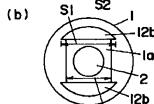
[Drawing 6]

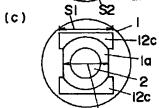


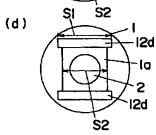


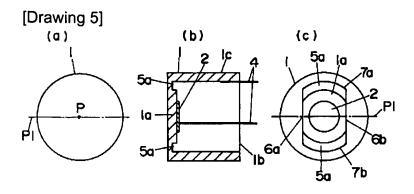


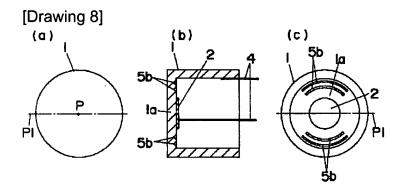


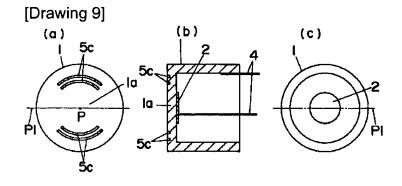


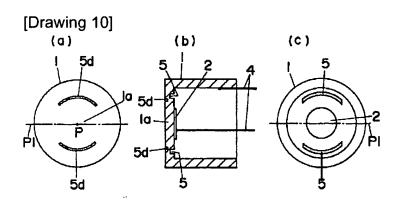




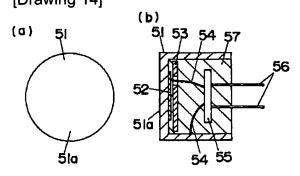




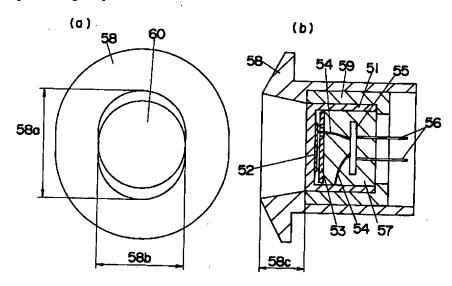




[Drawing 14]



[Drawing 15]



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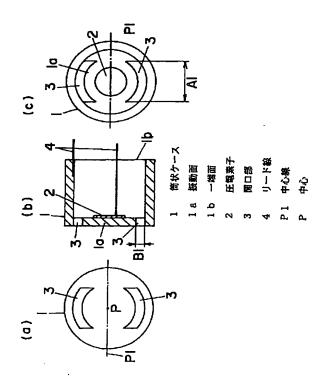
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(54) 【発明の名称】 超音波振動子

(57)【要約】

【課題】その目的はホーンを用いることなく、各方向の ビームの太さを異なるようにできる超音波振動子を提供 することにある。

【解決手段】略円筒状の筒状ケース1は、その一端面1 bが開口しており、他端面の筒状ケース1内側の略中央 部に圧電素子2を貼り付けて配置し、振動面1aとし、 この振動面1 a より超音波の送受波が行われる。振動面 1 a の面上には、圧電素子2の設けられた位置の外側で あり、振動面1aの中心Pを通る中心線P1を中心に対 称となる位置に、それぞれ1つずつ中心線P1と平行方 向に長さA1を有し、長さA1方向と直交する方向に長 さB1を有する円弧状の開口部3, 3が設けられてい る。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 一端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒 状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧 電素子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行 う超音波振動子において、前記筒状ケースは、その軸と 直交する面の各中心を通る中心線を中心として対称とな る位置に開口部を有することを特徴とする超音波振動 子。

【請求項2】 前配開口部は前記振動面に形成されるこ とを特徴とする請求項1記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項3】 前記開口部は前記筒状ケースの側面に形 成されることを特徴とする請求項1記載の超音波振動

【請求項4】 前記開口部は前記振動面から前記筒状ケ ースの側面にかけて形成されることを特徴とする請求項 1記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項5】 前記開口部の前記中心線と平行方向の長 さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整することを特徴と する請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の超音波振 動子。

【請求項6】 前記開口部の前記中心線と直交する方向 の長さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整することを特 徴とする請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の超音 波振動子。

【請求項7】 一端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒 状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧 電素子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行 う超音波振動子において、前記振動面は、その中心を通 る中心線を中心に対称となる位置に厚さの薄い薄肉部を 有することを特徴とする超音波振動子。

【請求項8】 前記振動面の前記筒状ケース内側の形状 は、前記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成され ている形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を有 する形状であることを特徴とする請求項7記載の超音波 振動子。

【請求項9】 前記薄肉部の前記中心線と平行方向の長 さが、前記対称となる位置に設けられた各薄肉部間にあ る前記振動面の前記平行方向の長さ以上であることを特 徴とする請求項8記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項10】 前記薄肉部は、その深さ方向に向かっ て幅が狭くなる形状であることを特徴とする請求項7記 載の超音波振動子。

【請求項11】 前記薄肉部は、前記振動面の前記筒状 ケースの内側に設けられていることを特徴とする請求項 7から請求項10のいずれかに記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項12】 前記薄肉部は、前記振動面の前記筒状 ケースの外側に設けられていることを特徴とする請求項 7から請求項10のいずれかに記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項13】 前記薄肉部は、前記振動面の前記筒状 ケースの内側と内側の両方に設けられていることを特徴

とする請求項7から請求項10のいずれかに記載の超音 波振動子。

【請求項14】 前記振動面の前記筒状ケース外側の形 状は、前記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成さ れている形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を 有する形状であることを特徴とする請求項7記載の超音 波振動子。

【請求項15】 前記筒状ケースを鍛造製法により製造 することを特徴とする請求項1から請求項14のいずれ 10 かに記載の超音波振動子。

【請求項16】 前記筒状ケース側面の外壁の肉厚が前 記開口した一端面側の方が前記振動面側より厚くなるよ うに、前記筒状ケースの側面に段差部が設けられている ことを特徴とする請求項1から請求項15のいずれかに 配載の超音波振動子。

【請求項17】 前記段差部はテーパ形状であることを 特徴とする請求項1から請求項16のいずれかに記載の 超音波振動子。

【発明の詳細な説明】

20 [0001]

> 【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、超音波信号を送信 するとともに障害物からの反射波を受信して障害物の存 在を検出する超音波センサの超音波振動子に関するもの である。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来の障害物検知を行う超音波センサと しては、超音波センサより超音波パルスを空気中に発信 し、検知対象物体などの障害物に反射して、その反射波 を超音波センサで受信し、その受信信号の処理を行い、 30 警報などを発するような構成になっている。上記超音波

センサの超音波を発信および受信している超音波振動子 は、図14(a)の正面図、図14(b)の側面断面図 に示すような構成である。一端面が開口した中空の筒状 ケース51他端側の面は、その筒状ケース51内側に接 着剤で貼り合わせた圧電素子52が設けられて振動面5 1 a となっており、超音波信号の送受信を行う。圧電素 子52の上記振動面51aに貼り合わされていない側に は、吸音材53が配置されている。圧電素子52と筒状 ケース51に接続されたリード線54と、図示せぬ制御 回路側から入出力される信号を伝達するシールド線56 とがターミナル基板55で接続される。また、この筒状 ケース51の内部には充填材57が充填されている。

【0003】しかし、この超音波振動子では振動面51 aは円形で厚みは一定のため、超音波振動子自体では、 超音波振動子からみて全方向に略均一な指向性となる。 車両用の障害物検知の超音波振動子は、車両のバンパー などに取り付けられるが、車両へ取り付けたときの超音 波振動子の横方向の検知エリアは、障害物の存在を検知 するために広くし、縦方向の検知エリアは路面上の不用

物体の検知を防止するため狭くする必要がある。よっ 50

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て、水平方向と垂直方向で超音波振動子の超音波のビームの太さの異なる指向性が必要となる。そのため、従来の超音波振動子では、保持ゴム59を介してホーン58を設けて超音波のビーム制御を行う必要があった。ホーン58は、図15(a)(b)に示すように、縦径58a、横径58b、深さ58cを有する開口部60からビーム制御を行っている。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】このようなホーン58を有する超音波振動子では、車両走行中などに、ホーン58の内部に雨水が入りこんだり、雪やほこりなどが溜まりやすく、それにより超音波のビームが変化して障害物などの対象物の検知エリアが変わってしまうことがある。また、ホーン58内部に入ったものを検知してしまい、検知対象物体が検知エリアに無いにもかかわらず、それを誤検知してしまう問題があった。そしてまた、超音波振動子をバンパーなどに取り付けるため、ホーン58がバンパー面より突出し、またホーン58自体の穴が存在するため、外観上もよくないという問題があった。このように、超音波振動子のビームの太さを異なるようにするために、ホーンを用いると上記した問題が発生した。

【0005】本発明は上記事由に鑑みて為されたものであり、その目的はホーンを用いることなく、超音波のビームの指向特性を異なるようにできる超音波振動子を提供することにある。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するために、請求項1の発明は、一端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧電素子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行う超音波振動子において、前記筒状ケースは、その軸と直交する面の各中心を通る中心線を中心として対称となる位置に開口部を有することを特徴とする。よって、振動面の中心線と直交する方向の振動は、その両端部に開口部があるため剛性が弱くなって振動面としてなり、中心線と平行方向の振動に比べて、振動面とでする方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなるように振動する。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0007】また、請求項2の発明は、請求項1記載の 発明において、前記開口部は前記振動面に形成されるこ とを特徴とする。よって、請求項1と同様の効果が得ら れる。

【0008】また、請求項3の発明は、請求項1記載の発明のおいて、前記開口部は前記筒状ケースの側面に形成されることを特徴とする。よって、請求項1と同様の効果が得られるとともに、振動面に開口部を設けないた

め、圧電素子の大きさや位置を制限せずに配置でき、ま た外観も良くなる。

【0009】また、請求項4の発明は、請求項1記載の発明において、前記開口部は前記振動面から前記筒状ケースの側面にかけて形成されることを特徴とする。よって、開口部を大きくとることができ、振動面の中心線に対して開口部を形成した形成方向の剛性を弱めることができるので、超音波の送波、受波を行うにあたり、ビームの指向特性の異方向性を向上することができる。

7 【0010】また、請求項5の発明は、請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記開口部の前記中心線と平行方向の長さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整することを特徴とする。よって、超音波の指向特性を変更できる。

【0011】また、請求項6の発明は、請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記開口部の前記中心線と直交する方向の長さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整することを特徴とする。よって、超音波の指向特性を変更できる。

【0012】また、請求項7の発明は、一端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧電素子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行う超音波振動子において、前記振動面は、その中心を通る中心線を中心に対称となる位置に厚さの薄い薄肉部を有することを特徴とする。よって、振動面の中心線と直交する方向の振動は、その両端部に薄肉部があるため剛性が弱くなって振動面とやすくなり、中心線と平行方向の振動に比べて、振動面としなり、中心線と平行方向の振動に比べて、振動面と直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなるように振動する。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0013】請求項8の発明は、請求項7記載の発明に おいて、前記振動面の前記筒状ケース内側の形状は、前 記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成されている 形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を有する形 状であることを特徴とする。よって、中心線と水平方向 の超音波のビームを太くすることができ、超音波のビー ムの指向特性の異方向性を向上することができる。

【0014】また、請求項9の発明は、請求項8記載の発明において、前記薄肉部の前記中心線と平行方向の長さが、前記対称となる位置に設けられた各薄肉部間にある前記振動面の前記平行方向の長さ以上であることを特徴とする。よって、中心線と垂直方向の超音波のビームを太くすることができ、超音波のビームの指向特性の異方向性を向上することができる。

【0015】また、請求項10の発明は、請求項7記載の発明において、前記薄肉部は、その深さ方向に向かっ 50 て幅が狭くなる形状であることを特徴とする。よって、 筒状ケースの製造において、塑性加工にて容易に精度良 く薄肉部を形成することができる。

【0016】また、請求項11の発明は、請求項7から 請求項10のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉 部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの内側に設けられて いることを特徴とする。よって、筒状ケースの外観が良 くなる。

【0017】また、請求項12の発明は、請求項7から 請求項10のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉 部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの外側に設けられて いることを特徴とする。よって、筒状ケースの内部に充 填材にて充填した後においても、薄肉部の長さ、深さ、 数により、振動面の振動状態を任意に調整できる。

【0018】また、請求項13の発明は、請求項7から 請求項10のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉 部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの内側と内側の両方 に設けられていることを特徴とする。よって、内側に設 けられる薄肉部により振動面の目標となる振動状態を形 成し、外側の薄肉部により超音波振動子の製造後の振動 状態の微調整を行うことができ、外側の薄肉部は微調整 のために形成されるため、その大きさを小さくすること ができ、外観が良くなる。

【0019】また、請求項14の発明は、請求項7記載 の発明において、前記振動面の前記筒状ケース外側の形 状は、前記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成さ れている形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を 有する形状であることを特徴とする。よって、前記筒状 ケースの中心線と平行方向の幅が狭くなり、超音波振動 子を車両のバンパーに取り付ける際に、筒状ケースを保 持する保持ゴムの厚みを大きくできるため、バンパー取 り付け部から振動面への影響を軽減できる。また、筒状 ケースの外観より薄肉部の形成方向を知ることができ る。

【0020】また、請求項15の発明は、請求項1から 請求項14のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記筒状 ケースを鍛造製法により製造することを特徴とする。よ って、筒状ケースの製造コストを削減することができ

【0021】また、請求項16の発明は、請求項1から 請求項15のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記筒状 ケース側面の外壁の肉厚が前記開口した一端面側の方が 前記振動面側より厚くなるように、前記筒状ケースの側 面に段差部が設けられていることを特徴とする。よっ て、超音波振動子を車両のバンパーに取り付けたときの 外観を小さくできるとともに、開口した一端面側の肉厚 が厚くなった外壁により筒状ケースの剛性を強め、振動 面をより大きく振動させることができる。

【0022】また、請求項17の発明は、請求項1から 請求項16のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記段差 ケースの鍛造加工による製造が可能となり、製造コスト を削減できる。

[0023]

【発明の実施の形態】 (実施形態1) 図1は本発明の超 音波振動子の実施形態1を示す図であり、(a)は正面 図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。略円 筒状の筒状ケース1は、その一端面1cが開口してお り、他端面は閉塞され筒状ケース 1 内側の略中央部に圧 電素子2を貼り付けて配置し、振動面1aとしている。 筒状ケース1と圧電素子2のそれぞれには外部回路より 信号が入出力されるリード線4が接続され、入力された 信号をもとに圧電素子2を振動させて、振動面1aより 上記一端面1 b と反対側に超音波を送波するとともに、 送波した超音波が物体に反射した反射波を振動面1 a よ り受波し、圧電素子2を介して電気信号をリード線4よ り上記外部回路に出力する。すなわち、筒状ケース1、 圧電素子2、リード線4により超音波振動子が構成され

【0024】筒状ケース1の軸と直交する面の一つであ る振動面1aの面上には、圧電素子2の設けられた位置 の外側であり、振動面1aの中心Pを通る中心線P1を 中心に対称となる位置に、それぞれ1つずつ中心線P1 と平行方向に長さA1を有し、長さA1方向と直交する 方向に長さB1を有する円弧状の開口部3, 3が設けら れている。この開口部3,3はゴムにて封止される。

【0025】この超音波振動子の中心線 P1と直交する 方向(以後、垂直方向と呼ぶ)の振動は、その両端部に 開口部3,3があるため剛性が弱くなって振動しやすく なり、中心線 P1と平行方向(以後、水平方向とよぶ) の振動に比べて、振動面laと直交する方向に平面振動 する部分が大きくなるように振動する。その結果、水平 方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エ リアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異 方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0026】また、開口部3の中心線P1と平行方向の 長さA1、あるいは中心線P1と直交する方向の長さB 1を変更することにより、振動面1aの垂直方向の剛性 が変化するため、振動面1 a の垂直方向の振動状態が変 わる。よって、上記長さA1、あるいは長さB1を変更 することで、振動面1aの垂直方向のビームの鋭さを自 由に設定可能となり、超音波の指向特性を調整できる。 (実施形態2) 図2は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態 2を示す図であり、(a) は正面図、(b) は側面断面 図、(c)は背面図である。図2において図1と異なる 点は、図1では振動面1a上に、中心線P1を中心とし て対称となる位置にそれぞれ開口部3,3が設けられて いたのに対して、図2では筒状ケース1の側面1cの振 動面1aと接する位置に、それぞれ1つずつ中心線P1 と平行方向に長さA2を有し、長さA2と直交する方向 部はテーパ形状であることを特徴とする。よって、筒状 50 に長さB2を有する略長方形状の開口部3a, 3aが設

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けられている点である。ここで、中心線 P 1 は筒状ケース 1 の側面の開口部 3 a , 3 a を有する面、すなわち筒状ケース 1 の軸と直交する面を通る中心線である。

【0027】振動面1aの垂直方向の振動は、開口部3aが設けられているため剛性が弱くなって振動しやすくなり、水平方向の振動に比べて、振動面1aと直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなるよう振動する。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0028】また、図1と同様に開口部3aの中心線P1と平行方向の長さA2、あるいは中心線P1と直交する方向の長さB2を変更することで、振動面1aの垂直方向のビームの鋭さを自由に設定可能となり、超音波の指向特性を調整できる。

【0029】そしてまた、振動面1aに開口部がないので、圧電素子2の大きさや貼りつけ位置を制限せずに配置でき、また外観も良くなる。

(実施形態3)図3は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態3を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図3において図1と異なる点は、図1では振動面1a上に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ開口部3,3が設けられていたのに対して、図3では振動面1aの端部からそれに連接する側面1bにかけて開口した開口部3bが、中心線P1を中心に対称となる位置に、それぞれ1つずつ設けられている点である。そして、超音波振動子全体を保持ゴム9で覆い、車両のバンパーに嵌合している。この保持ゴム9により開口部3bも封止しており、部品点数の削減となる。

【0030】このように、振動面1aから側面1bにかけて開口部3bを設けたため、開口部をより大きくとることができ、振動面1aの垂直方向の剛性を弱めることができ、水平方向に比べて垂直方向は振動面1aと直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなる振動をする。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0031】また、開口部3bの中心線P1方向と平行方向の長さA3、あるいは中心線P1と直交する方向の長さB3を変更することにより、振動面1aの垂直方向の剛性が変化するため、振動面1aの垂直方向の振動状態が変わる。よって、振動面1aの垂直方向のビームの鋭さを自由に設定可能となり、超音波の指向特性を調整できる。

(実施形態4)図4は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態4を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図4において図1と異なる点は、図1では振動面1a上に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ開口部3,3が設

けられていたのに対して、図4では振動面1aの筒状ケース1の内側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ振動面1aの肉厚より薄い薄肉部5,5が設けられている点である。この薄肉部5は、圧電素子2が配置されている位置の外側に設けられており、中心線P1と平行方向に一定の幅と深さを有する円弧形状である。

【0032】そのため、振動面1aの振動は、水平方向は単純なたわみ振動であるが、垂直方向は圧電素子2を貼り付けている部分でたわみ振動が生じ、その外側に設けられている薄肉部5のために振動しやすくなり、水平方向に比べて振動面1aと直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなる。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

(実施形態5)図5は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態5を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図5において図4と異なる点は、図4では振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側の形状が略円形状であり、その円形状の外周よりやや中心P側に薄肉部5が配置されているのに対し、図5では振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側の形状が、中心線P1を挟んでそれぞれ水平方向に円弧状の曲線7a,7bが設けられ、その曲線7a,7bのそれぞれの端部が結ばれて、中心線P1と略直交し、互いに略平行の直線6a,6bとなる形状となっている点である。そして、中心線P1を中心に対称となる位置であり、上記それぞれの円弧状の曲線7a,7bと接する位置に、一定の幅を有し中心線P1方向に円弧状である薄肉部5a,5aが設けられている。

【0033】このため、振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側の形状が略円形状である場合に比べて、中心線P1方向の幅が狭くなる。よって、振動面1aの水平方向が垂直方向と比べて狭い範囲で振動し、水平方向のビームをより太くすることができ、物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0034】このとき、図6(a)に示すように、薄肉部が一定の幅を有する円弧状でなく、中心側が中心線P1に平行な直線である形状の薄肉部11a、図6(b)に示すように、外側が中心線P1に平行な直線である形状の薄肉部11b、中心側、外側の両方が中心線P1に平行な直線である形状の薄肉部11cであってもよい。【0035】また、図7(a)(b)(c)(d)に示すように、薄肉部12a,12b,12c,12dの水平方向の長さS1が振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側における水平方向の幅S2より大きくなるように形成すると、薄肉部12a,12b,12c,12dの剛性をより弱めることができ、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビー

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ムをより鋭くすることができる。

(実施形態6)図8は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態6を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図8において図4と異なる点は、図4では振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ一定の幅と深さを有する薄肉部5,5が設けられていたのに対して、図8では振動面1aの筒状ケース1の内側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ2つずつ、深くなるにつれて幅が小さくなる断面が略V字形状であり、背面からみた形状が円弧状である薄肉部5bが設けられている点である。また、薄肉部5bは、深くなるにつれて幅が小さくなる断面が略円弧形状であってもよい。

【0036】このような断面が略V字形状、略円弧形状の薄肉部は塑性加工で容易に精度よく形成できる。また、この薄肉部5bの長さ、深さ、数を変更することで、振動面1aの振動状態を調整できる。

(実施形態7) 図9は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態7を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図9において図4と異なる点は、図4では振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ一定の幅と深さを有する薄肉部5,5が設けられていたのに対して、図9では振動面1aの筒状ケース1の外側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ2つずつ、一定の幅と深さを有し、正面からみた形状が円弧状である薄肉部5cが設けられている点である。

【0037】このように、薄肉部5cが振動面1aの筒状ケース1の外側に設けられるため、筒状ケース1の内部を充填材にて充填した後でも、薄肉部5cの長さ、深さ、数を変更することによって、振動面1aの振動状態を調整することができ、超音波振動子の製造後の微調整が可能となる。

(実施形態8)図10は本発明の超音波振動子の実施形態8を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図10において図4と異なる点は、図4では振動面1aの筒状ケース1内側に、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ一定の幅と深さを有する薄肉部5,5が設けられていたのに対して、図10ではさらに振動面1aの筒状ケース1の外側にも、中心線P1を中心として対称となる位置にそれぞれ1つずつ、一定の幅と深さを有し、正面からみた形状が円弧状である薄肉部5dが設けられている点である。

【0038】ここで、筒状ケース1の内側の薄肉部5の形成により、振動面1aの目標とする振動状態を作り、筒状ケース1の外側の薄肉部5dを用いて超音波振動子を製造した後の振動モードの微調整を行うようにする。

【0039】これにより、超音波振動子の製造後の振動 50

状態の微調整が可能となるとともに、筒状ケース1の外側に設けた薄肉部は小さくすることができ、外観が良く

脚に取りた神内部は小さくすることができ、外観が良くなる。 【0040】(実施形物り)図11以上や四の相立とに

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【0040】(実施形態9)図11は本発明の超音波振 動子の実施形態9を示す図であり、(a)は正面図、

(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。図11は図5に示した超音波振動子の振動面1aの外面形状が、中心線P1を挟んでそれぞれ垂直方向に円弧状の曲線15a,15bが設けられている点は図5と同様であり、10 その曲線15a,15bのそれぞれの端部が結ばれて、中心線P1と略直交した方向、つまり中心線P1に対して薄肉部5aが形成された方向に延びる互いに略平行の直線14a,14bが形成される形状となっている点が異なる。すなわち、図11の超音波振動子では図5に比べてその外面形状は、水平方向の幅が狭くなっている。この超音波振動子は、周囲が保持ゴム9で覆われバンパーに嵌合される。

【0041】上記各実施形態で説明した薄肉部を設ける構成では、筒状ケース1の側面振動は水平方向が大きくなる。そこで、図11に示すように水平方向の幅が狭くなる外面形状とすることで、保持ゴム9の水平方向の厚みを厚くすることが可能となり、超音波振動子を保持ゴム9で保持してバンパーに取り付けたとき、振動面1aへの影響を軽減することができる。また、振動面1aの外面形状が略円形でなく、中心線P1に対する薄肉部5aの形成方向に延びる略平行の2直線を有する構成であるため、外観よりバンパーなどへの取り付け方向が分かるようになる。

(実施形態10)図12は本発明の超音波振動子の実施 形態10を示す側面断面図である。図5に示した筒状ケース1の側面1cの外壁に、図12では開口した一端面 1b側の方の外壁16が、振動面1a側の方の外壁19 より幅が太くなるように、段差部17が形成されている 点が異なる。図12では、このように構成された超音波 振動子を保持ゴム9で保持して、段差部17がバンパー 10の内側に係止するようにバンパー10に取り付けて いる。

【0042】この幅が太くなるように構成された外壁16により、筒状ケース1の剛性を強めて振動面1aをより大きく振動させることができる。このとき、バンパー10に取り付けた外観を小さくできる。

【0043】図13は、図12に示した段差部17にテーパ18を持たせた例を示している。これにより、段差部17を锻造加工にて製造することが可能となり、製造コストを削減できる。図8で示したように塑性加工にて薄肉部5bを形成して筒状ケース1を製造するものにおいても、段差部17の加工と同様に鍛造加工にて製造して製造コストを削減できる。

[0044]

【発明の効果】上記したように、請求項1の発明は、一

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端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧電索子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行う超音波振動子において、前記筒状ケースは、その軸と直交する面の各中心を通る中心線を中心として対称となる位置に開口部を有するため、振動面の中心線と直交する方向の振動は、その両端部に開口部があるため剛性が弱くなって振動したすくなり、中心線と平行方向の振動に比べて、振動面と直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなるように振動する。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0045】また、請求項2の発明は、請求項1記載の 発明において、前記開口部は前記振動面に形成されるた め、請求項1と同様の効果が得られる。

【0046】また、請求項3の発明は、請求項1記載の 発明のおいて、前記開口部は前記筒状ケースの側面に形 成されるため、請求項1と同様の効果が得られるととも に、振動面に開口部を設けないため、圧電素子の大きさ や位置を制限せずに配置でき、また外観も良くなる。

【0047】また、請求項4の発明は、請求項1記載の発明において、前記開口部は前記振動面から前記筒状ケースの側面にかけて形成されるため、開口部を大きくとることができ、振動面の中心線に対して開口部を形成した形成方向の剛性を弱めることができるので、超音波の送波、受波を行うにあたり、ビームの指向特性の異方向性を向上することができる。

【0048】また、請求項5の発明は、請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記開口部の前記中心線と平行方向の長さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整するため、超音波の指向特性を変更できる。

【0049】また、請求項6の発明は、請求項1から請求項4のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記開口部の前記中心線と直交する方向の長さを変更して超音波の指向特性を調整するため、超音波の指向特性を変更できる。

【0050】また、請求項7の発明は、一端面が開口し、他端面が閉塞された筒状ケースの他端面を、その筒状ケース内側略中央部に圧電素子を設けて振動面とし、超音波の送波及び受波を行う超音波振動子において、前記振動面は、その中心を通る中心線を中心に対称となる位置に厚さの薄い薄肉部を有するため、振動面の中心線と直交する方向の振動は、その両端部に薄肉部があるため剛性が弱くなって振動しやすくなり、中心線と平行方向の振動に比べて、振動面と直交する方向に平面振動する部分が大きくなるように振動する。その結果、水平方向に比べて垂直方向のビームを鋭くして物体の検知エリアを小さくすることが可能となり、超音波振動子は異方向性を持つ指向特性を形成できる。

【0051】請求項8の発明は、請求項7記載の発明において、前記振動面の前記筒状ケース内側の形状は、前記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成されている形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を有する形状であるため、中心線と水平方向の超音波のビームを太くすることができ、超音波のビームの指向特性の異方向性を向上することができる。

【0052】また、請求項9の発明は、請求項8記載の 発明において、前記薄肉部の前記中心線と平行方向の長 さが、前記対称となる位置に設けられた各薄肉部間にあ る前記振動面の前記平行方向の長さ以上であるため、中 心線と垂直方向の超音波のビームを太くすることがで き、超音波のビームの指向特性の異方向性を向上するこ とができる。

【0053】また、請求項10の発明は、請求項7記載の発明において、前記薄肉部は、その深さ方向に向かって幅が狭くなる形状であるため、筒状ケースの製造において、塑性加工にて容易に精度良く薄肉部を形成することができる。

0 【0054】また、請求項11の発明は、請求項7から 請求項10のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉 部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの内側に設けられて いるため、筒状ケースの外観が良くなる。

【 0 0 5 5 】また、請求項 1 2 の発明は、請求項 7 から請求項 1 0 のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの外側に設けられているため、筒状ケースの内部に充填材にて充填した後においても、薄肉部の長さ、深さ、数により、振動面の振動状態を任意に調整できる。

【0056】また、請求項13の発明は、請求項7から 請求項10のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記薄肉 部は、前記振動面の前記筒状ケースの内側と内側の両方 に設けられているため、内側に設けられる薄肉部により 振動面の目標となる振動状態を形成し、外側の薄肉部に より超音波振動子の製造後の振動状態の微調整を行うこ とができ、外側の薄肉部は微調整のために形成されるた め、その大きさを小さくすることができ、外観が良くな る。

【0057】また、請求項14の発明は、請求項7記載の発明において、前記振動面の前記筒状ケース外側の形状は、前記振動面の中心線に対して前記薄肉部が形成されている形成方向に延びる互いに略平行な2つの直線を有する形状であるため、前記筒状ケースの中心線と平行方向の幅が狭くなり、超音波振動子を車両のバンパーに取り付ける際に、筒状ケースを保持する保持ゴムの厚みを大きくできるため、バンパー取り付け部から振動面への影響を軽減できる。また、筒状ケースの外観より薄肉部の形成方向を知ることができる。

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13 ケースを鍛造製法により製造するため、筒状ケースの製造コストを削減することができる。

【0059】また、請求項16の発明は、請求項1から 請求項15のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記筒状 ケース側面の外壁の肉厚が前記開口した一端面側の方が 前記振動面側より厚くなるように、前記筒状ケースの側 面に段差部が設けられているため、超音波振動子を車両 のバンパーに取り付けたときの外観を小さくできるとと もに、開口した一端面側の肉厚が厚くなった外壁により 筒状ケースの剛性を強め、振動面をより大きく振動させ ることができる。

【0060】また、請求項17の発明は、請求項1から 請求項16のいずれかに記載の発明において、前記段差 部はテーパ形状であるため、筒状ケースの鍛造加工によ る製造が可能となり、製造コストを削減できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施形態1に対応する超音波振動子の 構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面 断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図2】本発明の実施形態2に対応する超音波振動子の 構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面 断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図3】本発明の実施形態3に対応する超音波振動子の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図4】本発明の実施形態4に対応する超音波振動子の 構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面 断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図5】本発明の実施形態5に対応する超音波振動子の 構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面 断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図6】同上の超音波振動子の他の構造を示す図であって、(a)(b)(c)はいずれも背面図である。

【図7】同上の超音波振動子の更に他の構造を示す図で

あって、(a)(b)(c)(d)はいずれも背面図である。

【図8】本発明の実施形態6に対応する超音波振動子の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図9】本発明の実施形態7に対応する超音波振動子の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図10】本発明の実施形態8に対応する超音波振動子 10 の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側 面断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図11】本発明の実施形態9に対応する超音波振動子の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図、(c)は背面図である。

【図12】本発明の実施形態10に対応する超音波振動子を車両のバンパーに取り付けた状態を示す側面断面図である。

【図13】同上の超音波振動子の他の構造を示す側面断面図である。

20 【図14】従来の超音波振動子の構造を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図である。

【図15】従来の超音波振動子にホーンを取り付けた状態を示す図であって、(a)は正面図、(b)は側面断面図である。

【符号の説明】

1 筒状ケース

1 a 振動面

1 b 一端面

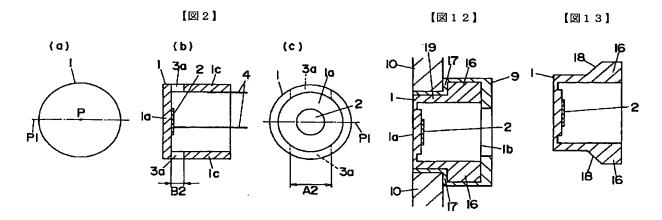
2 圧電素子

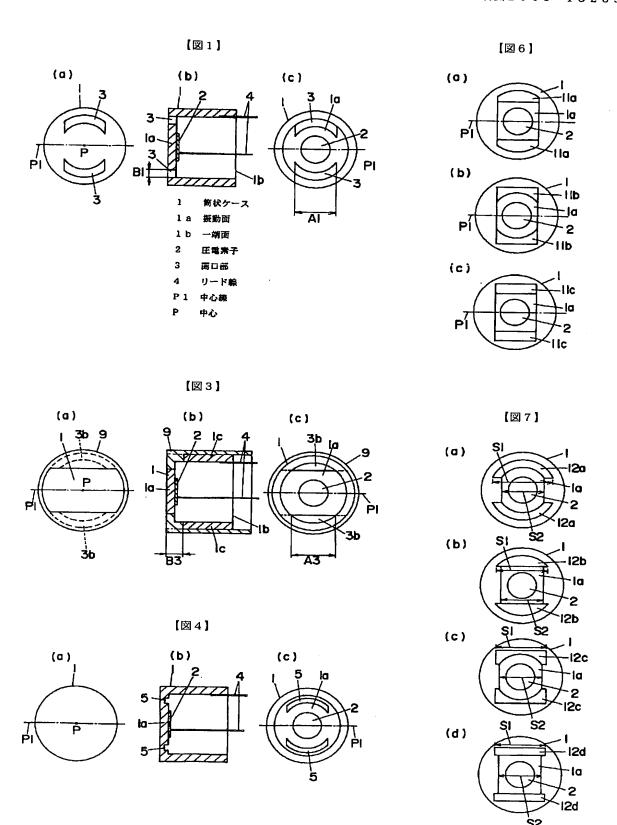
30 3 開口部

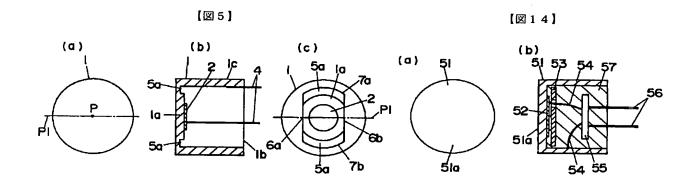
4 リード線

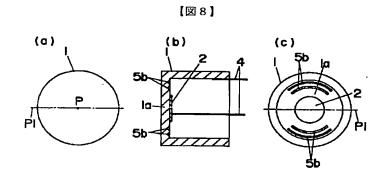
P1 中心線

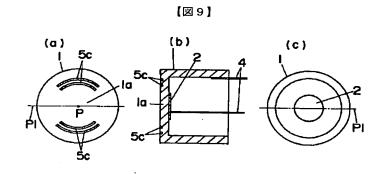
P 中心

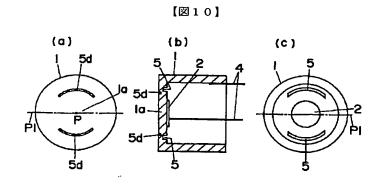




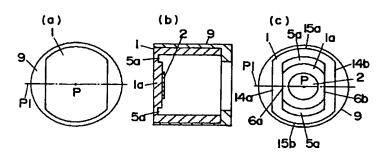




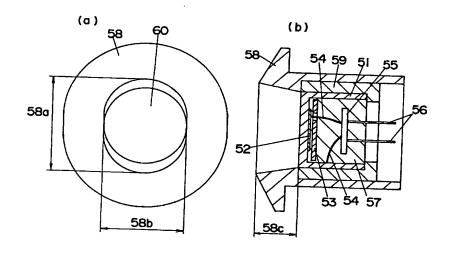




【図11】



【図15】



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